REMARKS

the subject matter claimed thereby. Therefore, the rejections of claims 1-6 and 13-19 are rendered moot, and the only claims remaining in the above-titled patent application are allowed claims 7-12. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner enter the foregoing amendments and allow pending claims 7-12 to issue in a U.S. patent.

CONCLUSION

The Applicants respectfully submit that the above-titled patent application is in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly requested. If the Examiner believes that an in-person or telephonic interview with the Applicants' representatives will in any way expedite the examination of the above-titled patent application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney of record. The Applicants believe that no fees are due as a result of this responsive amendment. However, in the event of any variance between the fees determined the Applicants and those determined by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, please charge any such variance to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 01-2300.

Respectfully submitted,

\ /

Arent Fox PLLC

Timothy J. Churna

Registration No. 48,340 FOR: Erik B. Cherdak

Registration No. 39,936

Arent Fox PLLC 1050 Connecticut Ave., N.W. Suite 400 Washington, D.C. 20036-5339 Telephone No. (202) 857-8933 Facsimile No. (202) 857-6395 EBC/TJC:sq